

In Ameren Energy Inc.'s (AEC) reply comments of June 22, 2004, there were several assertions that were inconsistent with fact; others that deserve comment. Sections in quotes are from Ameren's filing.

"AEC has not received a single complaint of RF interference in the two years of the [Cape Girardeau, MO demonstration] system's operation."

Ameren is confusing correlation with causation. Is the lack of interference complaints because Ameren's system doesn't cause interference, or is it because there is currently no publicly accessible database of BPL installations, and licensed users who are being interfered with unaware of the party causing the interference?

"...the NTIA report is not support for every party who opposes BPL on technical grounds."

The NTIA report is the best, most exhaustive source of quantitative data regarding interference caused by BPL. It is sufficiently representative of BPL's interference potential over a range of frequencies that it can be accepted as documentation of BPL's interference potential in general.

"Furthermore, the offer of such access implies an obligation on the part of BPL operators to consult the database prior to configuring their networks. This would be an unduly burdensome obligation that is not borne by any other broadband service provider, despite the fact that cable modems and DSL modems are similarly subject to Part 15 of the Commission's rules."

Neither cable nor DSL broadband installations radiate energy at the level of BPL systems. If BPL providers bear more obligations than other broadband providers, it is because of the unique nature of their systems and the high levels of radio frequency energy radiated by their systems.

"BPL is not an intentional radio transmitter and does not require a spectrum license."

It radiates sufficient energy that it SHOULD require a spectrum license.

"Section 8.10 offers no technical arguments why such a database is necessary or indispensable. It is little more than a public relations gesture to those who oppose BPL under any circumstances."

The database is an important tool for identifying potential sources of harmful interference should harmful interference occur. If Ameren has nothing to hide, it has no reason to oppose listing its installations in a public database.

"AEC points out that ionospheric pollution would spread globally and not be confined to the locality of the polluting radiator. Therefore, in order to assess the effect of BPL on ambient radio noise due to ionospheric propagation, BPL data collected throughout the globe would be necessary."

This is exactly correct. Interference caused by Ameren's systems can, and will, propagate worldwide. Therefore, the FCC should delay approval of large-scale BPL rollouts until BPL's global effects are quantified. I am glad that Ameren supports this concept. It is important in view of US treaty obligations to international users of the spectrum.